CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Graduate Studies News

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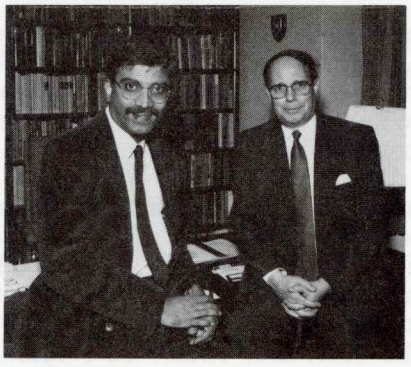
From the Dean's Desk:

Welcome, Dr. Baba

Dr. Vishwanath V. Baba of the Department of Management in the Faculty of Commerce and Administration is joining the Division of Graduate Studies as Associate Dean. We are delighted with this appointment. Dr. Baba received his Ph.D. in Organizational Behaviour from the University of British Columbia and holds an M.B.A. from Western Illinois University and a B.Eng. from the University of Madras. He is an active internationally recognized researcher and has published extensively on a broad range of management problems. He has also lectured widely in Canada, China, England, Hungary, India, Italy, Mexico, and the U.S. Dr. Baba is respected as a good and dedicated teacher and is deeply committed to academic excellence.

Dean Szabo and Dr. V. Baba



Dr. Baba's duties as Associate Dean of Graduate Studies will include the management of the graduate program appraisals and the reorganization of the graduate student request system. His appointment will enhance the academic presence of the Division of Graduate Studies on several university bodies and committees.

We are looking forward to this important addition to the Division of Graduate Studies and are confident that the university community will extend their support to this new appointment.

M. E. Szabo

Diploma in Accountancy

Accountancy is a profession that is as easy to get into as it is difficult. Flip through the professional help wanted ads or have a look at the board in an employment office. Accountants are in demand, jobs look like sure things. But talk to a student who is preparing to write the UFE (Uniform Final Examination – the chartered accountant's national licensing examination) and nothing seems simple anymore.

The UFE exam is the accountancy student's only means of getting licensed to practice public accountancy. The exam is held every year in

September across the country and lasts 16 hours over four days. The success rate is around 50 per cent every year but students who fail the exam can rewrite it up to six times – providing they are willing to wait until the exam comes up next year.

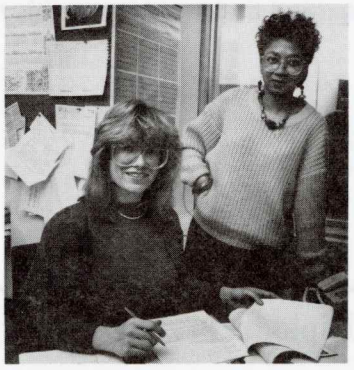
"It's a lot of effort," says Mirta Romaniak, director of Concordia's diploma in accountancy program. "Generally students take time off from work (most diploma students already work for accounting firms) the summer before they write, to study and prepare." It's not only a matter of how smart you are, it all boils down to whether or not you have the stamina to write for those four days, four hours each day. The exam itself prevents a lot of people from entering the profession.

Students in the program generally hold Bachelor degrees from a faculty of commerce and have graduated with high academic standing. In some cases students will be accepted from other disciplines, but only if they have completed a core curriculum of accountancy courses as undergraduates and have passed other qualifying courses.

Concordia's 32 credit post-graduate diploma program includes the Summer School in Chartered Accountancy. Upon completion of the Diploma Program students are allowed to write the UFE exam.

This year the program is reorganizing its summer school to improve student's performance at the UFEs. Previously, the summer school ran for three weeks in August. For 1988 the courses will run from May to August and spend additional time focusing on exam-writing techniques and writing trial examinations.

M. Romaniak, Admin. Director, Accountancy with secretary M. Nicholls



Romaniak says it's hard to predict what will show up on the UFE exam papers. The first day is always a comprehensive case, but the rest can range from single-subject questions, such as current accounting literature topics, to multi-subject questions, integrating topics on the UFE syllabus.

For 1988, the Summer School will include among others, L.S. Rosen, a well-known author and founding chairman of the Canadian Academic Accounting Association, and Stanley Laikin, the author of the program's textbook on tax, **Introduction to Federal Income Tax in Canada**, amongst others.

According to Romaniak, almost all diploma students study part-time. She estimates that 95 per cent are already employed by accounting firms. "In the first year (students) are sent out by the firms to do fieldwork, such as evaluating systems of internal control, taking part in preparing other parts of the audit working papers or do write-ups of clients' books. After the first year they may even prepare personal or corporate tax returns. In the first year they are moving from client to client – it's not static. It's confidence-building, they are meeting and working with many people.

In general, Concordia's program conforms with Quebec's education program for chartered accountants. In Quebec there are two systems, English and French. The French schools offer the program as part of a Bachelor degree in Commerce, whereas the English system relies on the diploma program.

Romaniak feels the diploma is distinctive in that it can provide small class sizes (classes rarely exceed 30 students) and provide students with an intensive summer school, in order to meet the rigorous challenge of the UFE examination.

For further information on the Diploma in Accountancy, contact Mirta Romaniak at (514) 848-2763, or write care of Concordia University at 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8, Canada.

Diploma in Institutional Administration

The Diploma in Institutional Administration trains students for management positions in four basic areas. Students take a core curriculum, as well as a "major" in one of four areas – health, arts, education and public administration. Health includes administrative studies ranging from day-care to hospitals and community medicine; arts administration applies to the management of museums, theatres and the like; education specialists study the organization of CEGEPs and universities; and public administration studies apply to all levels of government.

"This program is not sitting idle," says program director Jean-Marie Corvington. "It's well known in the community for teaching and training individuals to become managers in non-profit sectors of the economy."

This year the diploma has introduced two new innovative course options. The first is a new course in what Corvington calls "high tech" project management. It will train students in the use of computers for on-site project management. The software, which Corvington bought

and customized to suit the needs of the department, is able to monitor the ongoing time, budget and efficiency constraints a project develops. From that data the computer is able to forecast what changes and expectations managers might have with respect to their original plans. "It's one of the only courses of its kind in North America," says Corvington. "We are always looking for more innovative courses."

The second new feature of the program is an internship program. The program was implemented this year on a trial basis. It proved successful and will become a regular part of the diploma in 1988-89. The internships are optional and will allow students to spend a minimum of four months working in their area of specialization.

J-M. Corvington,
Diploma Program Director,
Institutional Administration

Two students are now on internships. Aleem Lakhini, a student who will be graduating with this year's class, has been placed with the Quebec Ministry of Communications.The Ministry wants to expand its services, especially in English-speaking areas. Lakhini will be conducting a study to develop a plan for the deployment of the new offices. He will be making recommendations to the Ministry on the number of offices required and where they should be located. (Lakhini is starting an M.A. in Administration at Carleton University when he finishes the project. Carleton has given him advanced standing and he will start in the second year of the Master's program).

A second student has been sent to Centre Hospitalier de Verdun and will be working on solving the problems of emergency room overcrowding.

Corvington projects that approximately 20% of the diploma students will take the internship options, and does not expect to have any trouble finding placements. The Diploma in Institutional Administration was created in 1974 for students who hold degrees. The program is 33 credits, with students taking 6 compulsory courses (18 credits) in the basics of commerce and administration, including accounting, marketing and finance. Three more courses (9 credits) are compulsory depending upon a student's area of specialization. Students are also given a choice of two courses from a list of five as electives.

Corvington says most students hold BA degrees and are studying part-time while holding down full-time jobs. A few have some background in commerce, and according to Corvington, these students get a good break. "We give them course remissions. They still have to take 33 credits, but they are able to do majors and minors in specialized areas."

For further information on the Diploma in Institutional Administration, contact Jean-Marie Corvington at (514) 848-2719, or write care of Concordia University at 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8, Canada.

Diploma in Ecotoxicology

"What we are trying to do here in the long run is to create physicians of nature...people with fingers on the pulse of the environment," says Perry Anderson, director of Concordia's Diploma in Ecotoxicology.

Ecotoxicology is a new science that has arisen in response to increasing awareness of the effects of industrial and chemical pollutants on the environment. It was first defined in 1976 as a sub-discipline of toxicology (the study of poisons and their effects) but there are some important breaks with conventional toxicological thinking.

"Toxicology is traditionally oriented toward man...it is remedial. Man can let his own health go awry and then deal with it," says Anderson. "We deal with a natural community where all organisms are interrelated...we cannot have a solely remedial approach. We can't go and throw an antidote in the lake. Our basic rationale has to be preventative. Ecotoxicology is a predictive science; a new science limited to understanding of the ecosystem and how chemicals behave at low levels."

Concordia's diploma program, which was established in 1985, is a joint venture between the chemistry and biology departments. Anderson says it is "unique" in Canada and the United States. The program was first designed for people working in chemical industries and government agencies already holding a Bachelor degree in chemistry or biology, or who wanted to cross over to toxicology from applied sciences like chemical engineering. At that time it was believed most students would study part-time while continuing to work. Since then it has been attracting more people looking for training before entering the work force or moving on to graduate school. Enrolment has also grown considerably. When the program began, it expected to house only six to ten students. There are presently 25 students in the program, and more than twenty applicants for next year's class. Although most students are full-time, most classes are held in the evening to accommodate working students. It is a 32 credit program, and deals with ecotoxi-

cology as a science and its legal/industrial implications. "The program gives a theoretical background to the practical side of ecotoxicology," says Anderson, adding that equipment and library shortages would make lab courses difficult. "We can't allocate this equipment to teaching. It must be used for research."

In spite of limitations, graduates of the program are prepared to work for industry in the area of waste management and government agencies that deal with environmental issues. Anderson also hopes that graduates will go into the teaching field.

P. Anderson, Diploma Program Director, Ecotoxicology with students from left D. Savoie, C. Copeman, S. Savary, W. Benjamin

"We need candidates who will go into all phases of education, including the public schools, to produce citizens who will be responsible to nature. We need them to make it a social commitment rather than a political commitment which it is now. Ecotoxicology has received most of its publicity through the radical press, which says stop pollution by shutting down civilization. There is an alternative and that's what we are trying to provide. "Anderson has high hopes for diploma students and expects many of them will become involved in the new initiative to clean up the St. Lawrence River.

For further information on the Diploma in Ecotoxicology, contact Perry Anderson at (514) 848-3391, or write care of Concordia University at 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8, Canada.

Profile: MICHAEL DORLAND

Michael Dorland is a recent winner of a Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council doctoral fellowship for 1988-89. A student in Concordia's joint doctoral program in Communication, he is studying "the gap between the nationalist rhetoric of culture and its practices" in Canada and has a handful of surprising analogies for Canadian cultural debates.

"The discourse on culture in Canada is similar to the Soviet Union's discussion of Marxism...the gap is never acknowledged. Practices change but the rhetoric doesn't," he says, referring to standard rhetorical figures in cultural debates such as the notion of identity.

Dorland's route to his present doctoral studies has been convoluted. Since completing an M.A. in Chinese history at McGill in the early 1970's, Dorland has put in time as a journalist working at, among other papers, the Montreal Gazette and the Star. He has worked as an editor at Cinema Canada, written a thriller entitled **Double Cross Circuit** and studied at the University of London.

Throughout his varied career, however, Dorland has always been interested in the development of national cultures and the impact of foreign influences on them. Of his current studies, he says: "They are an extension of an intellectual and practical interest."

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